

3 energy spectrum produced by irradiating nucleic acids in said microorganisms at a wavelength  
4 between 242-257 nm, comprising:

5 (a) contacting said sample with a medium comprising solid phase immobilized  
6 antibodies which specifically bind to a characteristic cell surface antigen on said  
7 microorganism to form an antigen-antibody complex, thereby immobilizing said  
8 microorganism on said solid phase;

9 (b) irradiating the solid phase of step (a) with a laser light of 242-257 nm to produce  
10 a resonance enhanced Raman backscattered energy spectrum; and

11 (c) comparing said induced spectrum of step (b) with said characteristic spectrum to  
12 detect the presence of said microorganism in said sample.

B<sup>2</sup>  
wrt.  
1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the solid phase a step (a) is washed to remove  
2 unbound sample and medium before the irradiating step (b).

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein said characteristic spectrum is at 1498 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

1 12. A system for detecting the presence of a specific microorganism in a sample,  
2 said microorganism having a characteristic resonance enhanced Raman backscattered energy  
3 spectrum produced by irradiating nucleic acids in said microorganisms at a wavelength  
4 between 242-257 nm, comprising:

5 (a) means for contacting said sample with a medium comprising solid phase  
6 immobilized antibodies which specifically bind to a characteristic cell surface antigen on said  
7 microorganism to form an antigen-antibody complex, thereby immobilizing said  
8 microorganism on said solid phase;